

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PANAMA 06024 231431Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 SAB-01 L-01 PM-03 INR-05

SP-02 H-01 SIL-01 EB-04 PRS-01 /044 W

-----017452 231434Z /43

P 231347Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3318

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PANAMA 6024

STADIS////////////////////////////////

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, ELAB, PN, PQ

SUBJECT: RALLY IN CANAL ZONE

REF: PANAMA 5892

SUMMARY: AUGUST 19 RALLY DREW OVER 2000, HEAVILY COVERED BY MEDIA INCLUDING US NETWORK TV CREWS. SPEECHES RANGED FROM ULTRA-RIGHT RHETORIC TO BITTER CRITICISM OF MISHANDLING OF CANAL WORKFORCE IN TREATY CONTEXT. GOVERNOR PARFITT'S AUGUST 18 "ASSURANCE" PAPER WAS CRITICIZED AS JUST MORE PROMISES. LABOR SPEAKERS SAID IF EARLY RETIREMENT SPECIFICS WERE NOT IN TREATY ITSELF, AL GRAHAM WAS INSTRUCTED TO SEEK AFL-CIO PANCOM DECISION OPPOSING IT AS WRITTEN. WILLIAM DRUMMOND CALLED ON PANAMANIAN TO BRING FAMILIES TO CANAL ZONE FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM, THEN SPEAK OUT AGAINST TORRIJOS AND HIS TREATY. RALLY WAS QUIETER THAN HAD BEEN FEARED, WITH NO OVERT TALK OF JOB ACTION. WORKFORCE HAS BEEN FORCED BY DEVELOPMENT OF TREATY SITUATION INTO SCHIZOPHRENIC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PANAMA 06024 231431Z

POSTURE OF EXTREMISTS DEMANDING GUARANTEES IN A TREATY THEY CONDEMN, WITH RELATIVELY MODERATE VOICES ALMOST TOTALLY DISCREDITED AND SILENCED BY WHAT IS SEEN AS TOTAL LACK OF USG RESPONSE. END SUMMARY.

1. CANAL ZONE RALLY WAS HELD 1900-2100 FRIDAY,

AUGUST 19 AT BALBOA STADIUM. ATTENDANCE WAS 2000-PLUS. ANNOUNCEMENTS ADDRESSED ALL EMPLOYEES OF EITHER NATIONALITY, BUT THOSE PRESENT WERE PREDOMINANTLY US. EVENT WAS HEAVILY COVERED BY MEDIA, INCLUDING LOCAL WIRE SERVICE CORRESPONDENTS AND SEVERAL US NETWORK TV FILM CREWS.

2. RALLY WAS SPONSORED BY CIVIC COUNCILS WITH "LABOR PARTICIPATION" TO "DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ON THE TREATY". SPEAKERS INCLUDED U.S. AND PANAMANIAN-CITIZEN CIVIC COUNCIL LEADERS, AND SEVERAL REPRESENTATIVES OF CLU-MTC (AFL-CIO). INTERNATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT OF NMU SENT A MESSAGE CALLING FOR LABOR SOLIDARITY, BUT NO ONE FROM NMU PARTICIPATED. FUNDS WERE COLLECTED, TO BE DIVIDED EQUALLY BETWEEN CANAL ZONE NON-PROFIT INFORMATION CORPORATION (US ANTI-TREATY LOBBY) AND CLU-MTC (FOR SUPPORT OF AL GRAHAM).

3. ALL SPEAKERS WERE BITTERLY CRITICAL OF "STATE DEPARTMENT" AND ENTIRE U.S.G. FOR IGNORING CANAL WORKFORCE. MOST BITING PROTEST WAS AT SCANTY AND CONTRADICTORY INFORMATION REACHING THEM. CIVIC COUNCILS HOMED IN ON SEVERAL FAMILIAR ISSUES; STATUS OF DUAL NATIONALS; FUTURE OF CHURCHES AND CIVIC INSTITUTIONS; ARRANGEMENTS FOR HOUSING; ACCESSIBILITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PANAMA 06024 231431Z

AND COST OF COMMUNITY SERVICES; ETC. EVEN US CITIZENS PROTESTED PRESUMED EXCLUSION OF NON-US CHILDREN RECENTLY INTEGRATED IN CANAL ZONE SCHOOLS.

4. LABOR LEADERS STRESSED NEED FOR GUARANTEE THAT DETAILS OF INTEREST TO THEM AUTOMATICALLY COME INTO FORCE WITH TREATY. THIS COULD ONLY COME FROM A LABOR ANNEX TO TREATY PROPER. JOB SECURITY GUARANTEES WERE A SPECIAL CONCERN; UNDER NEW TREATY, IT APPEARED TO THEM, CANAL COMMISSION EMPLOYEES WOULD NOT BE DOD EMPLOYEES ENTITLED TO AUTOMATIC TRANSFER RIGHTS. LABOR SPEAKERS SAID GRAHAM WAS INSTRUCTED TO SEEK PANCOM (AND THUS AFL-CIO) DECISION TO OPPOSE TREATY AS WRITTEN, IF OPTIONAL EARLY RETIREMENT WERE NOT EXPLICITLY IN IT. AUGUST 18 12-POINT "ASSURANCE" PAPER RELEASED BY GOVERNOR CAME IN FOR CONSIDERABLE ADVERSE COMMENT. SPEAKERS SAID THEY WERE TIRED OF PROMISES THAT THINGS "WILL BE SOUGHT".

5. ONE SPEAKER DELIVERED A TIRADE AGAINST COMMUNISTS IN STATE DEPARTMENT. ANOTHER ATTACKED CREDIBILITY OF TREATY GUARANTEES FROM PANAMA, CITING

ROMULO ESCOBAR SPEECH TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THAT MORNING WHICH HAD FLATLY CONTRADICTED US NEGOTIATORS STATEMENTS ABOUT WHAT NEUTRALITY PACT WOULD ACCOMPLISH. WILLIAM DRUMMOND, IN FINAL SPEECH OF NIGHT, VIOLENTLY ATTACKED TORRIJOS GOVERNMENT. HE URGED PANAMANIAN WHO ARE AFRAID TO SPEAK OUT TO BRING THEIR FAMILIES TO BALBOA POLICE STATION IN THE ZONE FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM AND THEN OPPOSE TORRIJOS AND HIS TREATY.

6. COMMENT: THIS RALLY WAS SCHIZOPHRENIC--ON THE ONE HAND, IT VILIFIED TREATY AND CALLED FOR ITS REJECTION WHILE ON THE OTHER IT DEMANDED INCLUSION OF SPECIFIC LABOR GUARANTEES SHOULD IT BE ACCEPTED. UNFORTUNATELY, DEVELOPMENT OF TREATY ISSUE VIS-A-VIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 PANAMA 06024 231431Z

CANAL WORKFORCE TO DATE HAS NOW FORCED LEGITIMATE EMPLOYEE CONCERNS TO BED WITH POLITICAL EXTREMISM. RALLY WAS QUIETER THAN SOME HAD FEARED, WITH NO OVERT TALK OF JOB ACTION (SICKOUT, SLOW-DOWN, ETC.). BUT RELATIVELY MODERATE VOICES ARE ALMOST TOTALLY DISCREDITED AND PUBLICLY SILENCED BY WHAT IS GENERALLY PERCEIVED IN THE ZONE AS A TOTAL LACK OF USG RESPONSIVENESS TO, OR KNOWLEDGE OF, THEIR NEEDS. TO THE EXTENT THAT CANAL ZONE LABOR CAN GET AFL-CIO TO DEFEND ITS AFFILIATES HERE, THIS COULD BE A NEGATIVE FACTOR IN OBTAINING TREATY RATIFICATION. JORDEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, AGREEMENTS, CANALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PANAMA06024
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770304-0234
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770833/aaaabbrrt.tel
Line Count: 148
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8df46856-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS, LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS, LIMDIS
Reference: 77 PANAMA 5892
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1516791
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RALLY IN CANAL ZONE
TAGS: PBOR, ELAB, PN, PQ
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8df46856-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009